LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

After waiting in line for two dollars worth of gasoline the other night, I came home to the President's State of the Union address. What a joy it was to be set straight at last. I found from the President's speech that much to my surprise my dollars are buying more than ever this year—I'll have to remember that the next time I pay $1.59 for a pound of hamburger at the market. More jobs than ever seem to have been created last year (I guess that's true, I hear Nixon hired 12 lawyers to work on Watergate), and yet unemployment seems to be rising again by the latest statistics. The President talked of the crises of personal privacy—a President who is refusing a subpoena to testify about the plumbers illegal activities.

He spoke of at last "building a structure of peace" and then spoke of more money for expanding the military. He told us how he has almost singlehandedly saved the environment, while attempting to pass an energy bill which would lift the restrictions now placed on polluters. He spoke of eliminating big business "windfall profits" and then spoke of his health care bill which apparently gives just that to the insurance companies. Then, to my surprise he stated that he was "cooperating fully" with the investigators of Watergate, a man who has refused a subpoena to testify, refused a subpoena by the Senate committee for documents, withheld vital tapes to the very grand jury, is accused of tampering with these tapes, and has already fired one of his investigators.

But all my fears were crushed when I found out how perfect he had made our country. Thank you, Mr. President, tonight I can sleep soundly and not worry about crime, drugs, prices, gasoline, war, Watergate, or "perennial profits of doom."

MARC S. ZASADA.
Fairfax.

Your newspaper, almost single-handedly, exposed Watergate in its broadest terms and everyone gives you credit therefor.

It is time now, however, for you to get behind the President and help him fight inflation, meet the energy crisis, and to maintain peace abroad and tranquility here at home. You owe this to your country and to the American people. Anything other than this is an assist to our enemies who are determined to destroy us. Surely you do not want this any more than do I.

Richard Nixon is a strong man in every sense of the term. He has proved his metal both domestically and in foreign affairs. He is President of every American and should have the support of every American, and without reservation.

In Mr. Nixon's State of the Union message, he spelled out a program that warrants the applause of all of us. He is entitled to our help in furtherance thereof; and I beseech your great publication to get in step and push as hard for progress as it did for full disclosure in the Watergate matter. Anything different than this is in direct contravention of the best interest of our natio and of the American people.

IRA E. BLACKWOOD.
Harrison, Ark.

I sit here numb. I am at a loss to understand exactly what I have just witnessed: the President's State of the Union.

How can he insult the intelligence of the people of America, the people who are paying outrageous prices for gasoline, who see the cost of food rising almost daily to preposterous proportions, the people who are living with a rate of inflation so high as to rival that of the depression, and tell them that never before have they had it so good; have they had so much spending power? I don't understand it.

How can he, almost endlessly, throw obstacle after legally questionable obstacle in the path of justice, refusing to help speed the Watergate and related investigations by withholding necessary information, and then cry that the investigations have gone on long enough, that "one year of Watergate is enough?"

How can he claim that he wants to delegate power back to the communities, and be responsive to what the people want, and ignore totally the anguished cries of a nation reacting to the Saturday Night Massacre, a people who, by every poll, are at least 50% in favor of resignation, only to tell us that we're stuck with him for the next three years?

It just doesn't seem fair, that's all.

CARL RAY GROSSMAN.
McLean.

After having read the February 1 edition of The Post, I was pleased to discover tucked away in various sections certain items dispelling the usual mantle of gloom with which one most often finds oneself enshrouded in the waking hours. True—the Nixon haters were there in full force having a field day with that overwhelming vindictive tenacity which has become their hallmark. Watergate was still there, but the President's State of the Union message was the target, of course, for much of the venom. There was, however, this brighter side, regarding which a few comments if I may.

I should first preface my remarks by stating: 1) I voted for Mr. Nixon in 72, because I believed in him and the goals he set forth. 2) I continue to support him today, and my confidence in his integrity has not waivered in spite of the plethora of journalistic,

Reaction to President Nixon's State of the Union Address

and political brainwashing to the contrary—But now for the kudos.

Item: Cheers for Sen. Barry Goldwater (may the Saints preserve him) for his statement on the President's speech, and for his discerning constituents who voiced disgust at the lack of respect for the Office of the President manifested by the Democrats. This display of childish petulance was unforgivable, but it did serve to accent the President's valor, and the weakness of our venerated legislative body.

Item: Cheers for columnist George F. Will's "The Senate Watergate Committee Should Retire," but not for some of the reasons he outlined. In my considered opinion, it should never have been staged as a television spectacular; the obvious intent of the grand inquisitor Sam Dash, and his bevy of eager leakers. Bestow an Emmy to Mr. Dash and John Dean, and have done with it—enough is enough.

Item: Cheers for the Cox's on their appearance at the Lafayette Park rally —A most welcome relief from Jane Fonda and her ilk.

And finally the icing on the cake: Cheer for Elizabeth Gullander's Feb. 1 letter to the editor 'Isn't It Time We Stopped Kidding Ourselves?" She demonstrated unsurpassed incite, and that rare commodity known as common sense. To Elizabeth, from a fellow member of the "unmacked," but not "unheard" majority . . . I salute you.

JACK A. McINTURFF.

Washington.

As a citizen of the United States who until recently respected his government, I am moved to state that I was revolted and shamed by the apparent adulation by members of Congress of a public servant who is under suspicion of having betrayed his public trust and under investigation of possibly committing or participating in the commission of serious crimes.

I am speaking of the media performance perpetuated on the people at the Joint Session of Congress during the presentation by the President of his State of the Union Message.

Here is a man who has chosen close advisers who have been indicted and some convicted of perjury, obstruction of justice, burglary, bribery, tax fraud. At least a dozen top administrative officials have resigned under pressure during the last year, yet this man disclaims all responsibility and refuses to cooperate to any significant extent with investigation of these matters. The man himself has tested the people's credulity to its absolute limit, with unexplained gaps in tape recordings, records which disappear, and an array of inconsistent statements by himself and his public relations team. He has retained a vast retinue of at-

torneys who, at public expense, spend their time searching for some legal basis to support continued obstruction of and interference with investigations of the President's wrongdoing.

And members of Congress cheer and offer standing ovations as the President stands before them proclaiming his continued defiance of law and order.

G. N. BUFFINGTON.

Washington.

The Nixon strategy for trying to destroy his political opposition was beautifully illustrated again in the President's State of the Union message. The President introduces his new plan for health care. He pins the American flag on himself and his plan and he shifts to his usual attack on the other plan (meaning Senator Kennedy's plan). Then he paints it as somehow "un-American," "not the way we do it here in America."

Now after he tries to pin the un-American label on the opposition, then he uses deliberate misinterpretation of facts. For instance, he tries to infer that Kennedy's plan will be extravagant in cost to Americans where he will ask for no new taxes in his plan. As I understand it, health care costs in the country now and in the future will be 80 to 100 billion dollars no matter what plan is adopted. Americans will pay the costs either through a total National Health Care Plan, or a partial government plan plus their own out of pocket expenses and either way it will add up to the same total cost in health care.

I would like to see an honest, intellectual discussion of the health care issue entirely separated from the emotional labels which the President uses to confuse and ruin a necessary and thorough national debate. I am not sure which plan I think is best, but I deeply resent the President's "smear and label" type approach to the disscussion of issues.

JOAN G. WOLFE.

Vienna.

Poor Dr. Freud's ideas have taken a beating in fashionable circles recently, but who could have missed the striking example of what the public insists on calling a "freudian slip" in the President's State of the Union message last night? Like an ice cube shoved down the collective back of the nation, interrupted the soporific flow of baser stuff, Mr. Nixon stumbled twice, and the words came out urging the Congress "to replace the *discredited President.*" It would seem that he was trying very hard to say "replace the *discredited present* (welfare) system." But how heartening to see that even President Nixon has a soul buried within himself capable of forcing his lips to balk, and insert the one syllable that changed this particularly graceless phrase into a candid call for his own impeachment.

WILLIAM F. HALE.

Arlington.

Last night I watched a President, who secretly recorded all conversations in his office, announce great new goals in protecting personal privacy, as though he himself had invented it. I heard him declare that one year of Watergate was enough and call for an end to the investigations, when he has been the chief obstacle to progress.

PHYLLIS REYNOLDS NAYLOR.

Bethesda.

Last night while I was completing my 1973 tax returns, I distinctly heard Richard M. Nixon say in his State of the Union message "I urge the Congress to join me in mounting a major new effort to replace the discredited president welfare system with one that works—one that is fair to those who need help or cannot help themselves, fair to the community and fair to the taxpayers." Well, that sounded great to me, and I will urge my congressman and senators to support the effort.

I was somewhat disappointed this morning when I read the message transcript in the Post and found that

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the word "president" had been changed to "present". However, I know what I heard and I know you people sometimes try to twist what people say, so I will continue to support the effort to replace the discredited president welfare system until I hear Ron Zeigler say "The President mis-spoke."

I feel so strongly about it that I will also urge my Representatives in Congress to support Congressman Moss' efforts to replace the discredited vice-president welfare system, as well. And to support Senator Jackson's effort to replace the discredited oil company president welfare system, too.

Maybe if I just hadn't been completing my tax returns at the time . . .

MICHAEL J. OLIVER.
Alexandria.

Three stars for the most eagerly anticipated situation comedy of the year —"State of the Union." The star, a one-time President turned actor, wheeled through an hilarious monologue with incomparable deadpan style. Some of his lines were a bit unbelievable, though, and his performance grew shaky at times; but a round of the heartiest applause goes to the real sleepers of the show—the members of the Joint Session.

LISA SMITH.
Alexandria.

I noticed that the CBS News' "instant analysis" of President Nixon's State of the Union Message was sponsored by Renuzit airfreshener. After both what the speech said and failed to say and all of the contrived hoopla while it was going on, I would venture to say that never have the advertised capabilities of the sponsoring product been so desperately in demand.

THOMAS E. WILSON.
Washington.

Give the Award of the Year to the person who successfully obtained the sponsorship rights to the CBS Review of the State of The Union message.

It was just beautiful to watch the Renuzit Air Freshener commercial at such an appropriate time.

B. ALEXANDER.
Alexandria.

The State of the Union address was an insult to the American people.

Impeachment now.

C. L. HARRISON.
Washington.

One year of Watergate may be enough, but three more years of immoral leadership is too much.

DOUGLAS A. CRITCHELL.
Washington